



## **MEETING MINUTES – Work Session**

**Date:** November 29, 2011

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:** 12-13-11

**Interpreters:** Jon Henry and Maureen McEntee

Cart: Shelley Deming

RIDE: Andrea Castenada

Attorney: Sara Rapport

### **Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:08 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

### **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

- a. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Jodi Merryman, Harvey Corson, Angelo Garcia
- b. **Excused:** Amy Donnelly-Roche, Westley Resendes

### **Reports:**

- Chairperson – **Travis Zellner:** no report – want to focus on Reform Plan
- Interim Administration Report – **Mary Pendergast:** nothing new to report

### **Discussion Items:**

- Leadership Team – update
  - Chair noted that the reform plan due 1/1/12, may be delayed to 3/16/12..gives us more time to focus and write a good plan; some of the same issues are coming up.
- Reform/SIG
  - Summary from Stakeholder meetings
    - **Mr. Fischgrund** handed out the feedback from the community meeting; noted that there was lively discussion and input from teachers also – major themes were spiral curriculum, family involvement, language – expected in a school for the deaf. Appendix B organized thoughts- four school capacities - will revise more

- than once – Draft 3 is shown: establish work group, committees, community liaison.
- Preliminary draft of school reform plan concentrated to building-specific strategies and commitments to implementation of the transformation model.
    - **Chair:** Draft 3 has a lot of criteria – can we streamline to 3 specific areas?
    - **Mr. Fischgrund:** all 4 categories are needed to improve student achievement; any school that made all these changes would be better; all these things have to start 2012-2013 and lead to improvement by the end of the school year; there are requirements in the Transformation plan that have to happen, e.g. language and communication area – board approved the philosophy statement. Although we have more time, we cannot slow down; we need to set out a block of time to meet and go over and write the plan; we will revise the draft and grid, look closer at rubric and how plan is evaluated.
    - **Ms. Pendergast:** next focus is needs assessment – draft priorities and overview; not ready for whole plan; RIDE just provided new template for guidance.
    - **Member:** be sure it's transparent with stakeholders, there is a certain set of standards we must abide by.
    - **Mr. Fischgrund:** we will make clear to the board what elements have to be part of the plan; then make a brief report of the process to post on the website. We are beyond taking comments and feedback; we don't want people to misunderstand with too much information.
    - **Chair:** we will send a letter from the Board with a brief update, mentioning that their feedback was included in our drafts.
  - RISD Director search
    - Update (Harvey Corson rescued himself from discussing and voting on this agenda item - left room at 6:40 p.m.)
      - **Chair:** paper screening is happening; will go on to interview team in January; we need to identify members of interview team.
      - **Ms. Pendergast:** we will choose after getting feedback from staff interested in being part of interview committee.
      - **Chair:** will draft letter to go out to community with an un-official closing date of 1-15-12; we have seven applicants now.
    - Search Committee
      - **Member:** need a clarification that we want representatives from various groups for a total of 10 people.
      - **Chair** will email to communicate all of this to staff and community.
  - Board of Trustee Vacancy (Deaf and Hearing Seat) (Mr. Corson returns at 6:45)
    - Went to Executive Session

**Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) – to discuss Board of Trustees vacancies, interviews, nominations; Collective Bargaining-Teachers Contract and Local 2012 Litigation: Smithfield vs. RIDE/RISD; Okwara v RISD and RI Attorney General; Okwara v RISD, DOA:**

- a. **MOVED Angelo Garcia AND SECONDED Jodi Merryman:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:46 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED Angelo Garcia AND SECONDED Marie Lynch:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:23 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED Harvey Corson AND SECONDED Jodi Merryman:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

**Motions from Executive Session:** Announce that Board voted to recommend Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez to Commissioner Gist for appointment to Board of Trustees.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

- Meeting possibly moved to 13<sup>th</sup> – for approval of minutes; Public Comment; more complete draft from Joe Fischgrund. There will be only one meeting in December.

#### **Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.